

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A thermal analyzer for predicting a temperature of an object to be heated, when a heating furnace heats said object based on predetermined heating conditions, said

5 thermal analyzer comprising:

an input unit for inputting at least the heating conditions, the physical property data of said object and the view factor setting data of said object;

a view factor calculation unit which calculates a view  
10 factor corresponding to a position of said object with respect to heating sources, based on the heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of said heating sources of said heating furnace, and the view factor setting  
15 data; and

a temperature calculation unit which calculates the temperature of said object, based on the heating conditions, the physical property of said object, the heating characteristic data of said heating furnace and the view  
20 factor.

2. A thermal conditions calculator for deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature of an object to be heated satisfies desired conditions when  
25 a heating furnace heats said object based on the

predetermined heating conditions, said thermal conditions calculator comprising:

an input unit for inputting the desired conditions of heating characteristic data, heating characteristic data  
5 of said object and an evaluation function;

a temperature calculation unit which calculates the temperature of said object, based on the heating characteristic data and the heating characteristic data of said object; and

10 a judgment unit which judges whether the evaluation function satisfies predetermined conditions or not, with respect to the temperature calculated by said temperature calculation unit,

wherein if said judgment unit judges that the  
15 evaluation function does not satisfy the predetermined conditions it changes the heating conditions, and if said judgment unit judges that the evaluation function satisfies the predetermined conditions it outputs the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the temperature;  
20 and

when the heating conditions are changed by said judgment unit, said temperature calculation unit calculates the temperature of said object again, based on the changed heating conditions.

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3. A thermal conditions calculator for deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature of an object to be heated comprising a plurality of constituents satisfies desired conditions when a heating furnace heats said object based on the predetermined heating conditions, said thermal conditions calculator comprising:

an input unit for inputting at least an evaluation function that satisfies conditions when a temperature difference between the plurality of constituents becomes a predetermined value or below, the heating conditions and the physical property data of said object;

a temperature calculation unit which calculates the temperature of said object, based on heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of heating sources of said heating furnace, the heating conditions and the physical property of said object; and

a judgment unit which judges whether the temperature calculated by said temperature calculation unit satisfies the evaluation function or not,

wherein if said judgment unit judges that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function it changes the heating conditions, and if said judgment unit judges that the temperature satisfies the evaluation function it outputs the heating conditions set at the time

of calculation of the temperature; and

when the heating conditions are changed by said judgment unit, said temperature calculation unit calculates the temperature of said object again, based on the changed heating conditions.

4. The thermal conditions calculator according to claim 3, further comprising a second judgment unit which specifies a temperature at which a temperature difference between the plurality of constituents becomes minimum, of the temperatures judged as satisfying the evaluation function in said judgment unit, and outputs the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the specified temperature.

5. A thermal conditions calculator for deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature of an object to be heated satisfies desired conditions when a heating furnace heats said object based on the predetermined heating conditions, said thermal conditions calculator comprising:

an input unit for inputting at least an evaluation function that satisfies conditions when the temperature of said object becomes a predetermined allowable temperature or below, the heating conditions and the physical property data of said object;

a temperature calculation unit which calculates the temperature of said object, based on heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of heating sources of said heating furnace, the heating conditions and the physical property of said object; and

a judgment unit which judges whether the temperature calculated by said temperature calculation unit satisfies the evaluation function or not,

10 wherein if said judgment unit judges that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function it changes the heating conditions, and if said judgment unit judges that the temperature satisfies the evaluation function it outputs heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the temperature; and

15 when the heating conditions are changed by said judgment unit, said temperature calculation unit calculates the temperature of said object again, based on the changed heating conditions.

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6. The thermal conditions calculator according to claim 5, further comprising a second judgment unit which specifies a temperature at which a difference between the temperature of said object and said allowable temperature, or an integral value of the n-th power of said difference ( $n > 0$ ) becomes

minimum, of the temperatures judged as satisfying the evaluation function in said judgment unit, and outputs the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the specified temperature.

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7. A method of thermal analysis of predicting a temperature of an object to be heated, when a heating furnace heats said object based on predetermined heating conditions, the method comprising the steps of:

10       inputting at least the heating conditions, the physical property data of said object and the view factor setting data of said object;

          calculating a view factor corresponding to a position of said object with respect to heating sources, based on  
15 the heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of said heating sources of said heating furnace, and the view factor setting data; and

          calculating the temperature of said object, based on  
20 the heating conditions, the physical property of said object, the heating characteristic data of said heating furnace and the view factor.

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8. A method of calculating thermal conditions of deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature of an object to be heated satisfies desired conditions when a heating furnace heats said object based on the predetermined heating conditions, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting at least an evaluation function indicating the desired conditions, the heating conditions, the physical property data of said object and the view factor setting data of said object;

calculating a view factor corresponding to a position of said object with respect to heating sources, based on the heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of said heating sources of said heating furnace, and the view factor setting data;

calculating the temperature of said object, based on the heating conditions, the physical property of said object, the heating characteristic data of said heating furnace and the view factor; and

judging whether the calculated temperature satisfies the evaluation function or not, and changing the heating conditions if it is judged that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function, and outputting the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the temperature

if it is judged that the temperature satisfies the evaluation function,

wherein the calculation of temperature and the judgment of whether the calculated temperature satisfies the evaluation function or not are repeated, when the heating conditions are changed, again based on the changed heating conditions.

9. A method of calculating thermal conditions of deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature of an object to be heated comprising a plurality of constituents satisfies desired conditions when a heating furnace heats said object based on the predetermined heating conditions, the method comprising the steps of:

15 inputting at least an evaluation function that satisfies conditions when a temperature difference between said pluralities of constituents becomes a predetermined value or below, the heating conditions and the physical property data of said object;

20 calculating the temperature of said object, based on heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of heating sources of said heating furnace, the heating conditions and the physical property of said object; and

25 judging whether the temperature calculated in said



temperature calculation step satisfies the evaluation function or not, and changing the heating conditions if it is judged that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function, and outputting the heating conditions  
5 set at the time of calculation of the temperature if it is judged that the temperature satisfies the evaluation function,

wherein the calculation of temperature and the judgment of whether the calculated temperature satisfies  
10 the evaluation function or not are repeated, when the heating conditions are changed, again based on the changed heating conditions.

10. The method of calculating thermal conditions according  
15 to claim 9, further comprising a second judgment step of specifying a temperature at which a temperature difference between the plurality of constituents becomes minimum, of the temperatures judged as satisfying the evaluation function in said judgment step, and outputting the heating  
20 conditions set at the time of calculation of the specified temperature.

11. A method of calculating thermal conditions of deriving  
predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature  
25 of an object to be heated satisfies desired conditions when

a heating furnace heats said object based on the predetermined heating conditions, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting at least an evaluation function that  
5 satisfies conditions when the temperature of said object becomes a predetermined allowable temperature or below, the heating conditions and the physical property data of said object;

calculating the temperature of said object, based on  
10 the heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of heating sources of said heating furnace, the heating conditions and the physical property of said object; and

judging whether the temperature calculated in said  
15 temperature calculation step satisfies the evaluation function or not, and changing the heating conditions if it is judged that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function, and outputting the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the temperature if it is  
20 judged that the temperature satisfies the evaluation function,

wherein the calculation of temperature and the judgment of whether the calculated temperature satisfies the evaluation function or not are repeated, when the heating  
25 conditions are changed, again based on the changed heating

conditions.

12. The method of calculating thermal conditions according to claim 11, further comprising a second judgment step of specifying a temperature at which a difference between the temperature of said object and said allowable temperature, or an integral value of the  $n$ -th power of said difference ( $n > 0$ ) becomes minimum, of the temperature judged as satisfying the evaluation function in said judgment step, and outputting the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the specified temperature.

13. A computer program which when executed on a computer realizes a method of thermal analysis of predicting a temperature of an object to be heated, when a heating furnace heats said object based on predetermined heating conditions, the computer program making the computer execute the steps of:

inputting at least the heating conditions, the physical property data of said object and the view factor setting data of said object;

calculating a view factor corresponding to a position of said object with respect to heating sources, based on the heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement

of said heating sources of said heating furnace, and the view factor setting data; and

calculating the temperature of said object, based on the heating conditions, the physical property of said object,  
5 the heating characteristic data of said heating furnace and the view factor.

14. A computer program which when executed on a computer realizes method of calculating thermal conditions of  
10 deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature of an object to be heated satisfies desired conditions when a heating furnace heats the object based on the predetermined heating conditions, the computer program making the computer execute the steps of:

15 inputting at least an evaluation function indicating the desired conditions, the heating conditions, the physical property data of said object and the view factor setting data of said object;

calculating a view factor corresponding to a position  
20 of said object with respect to heating sources, based on the heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of said heating sources of said heating furnace, and the view factor setting data;

25 calculating the temperature of said object, based on

the heating conditions, the physical property of said object, the heating characteristic data of said heating furnace and the view factor; and

judging whether the calculated temperature satisfies  
5 the evaluation function or not, and changing the heating conditions if it is judged that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function, and outputting the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the temperature if it is judged that the temperature satisfies the evaluation  
10 function,

wherein the calculation of temperature and the judgment of whether the calculated temperature satisfies the evaluation function or not are repeated, when the heating conditions are changed, again based on the changed heating  
15 conditions.

15. A computer program which when executed on a computer realizes method of calculating thermal conditions of deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the  
20 temperature of an object to be heated comprising a plurality of constituents satisfies desired conditions when a heating furnace heats the object based on the predetermined heating conditions, the computer program making the computer execute the steps of:

25 inputting at least an evaluation function that

satisfies conditions when a temperature difference between said pluralities of constituents becomes a predetermined value or below, the heating conditions and the physical property data of said object;

5           calculating the temperature of said object, based on heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of heating sources of said heating furnace, the heating conditions and the physical property of said object; and

10           judging whether the temperature calculated in said temperature calculation step satisfies the evaluation function or not, and changing the heating conditions if it is judged that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function, and outputting the heating conditions  
15           set at the time of calculation of the temperature if it is judged that the temperature satisfies the evaluation function,

          wherein the calculation of temperature and the judgment of whether the calculated temperature satisfies  
20           the evaluation function or not are repeated, when the heating conditions are changed, again based on the changed heating conditions.

16. The computer program according to claim 15, further making the computer execute a second judgment step of specifying a temperature at which a temperature difference between the plurality of constituents becomes minimum, of the temperatures judged as satisfying the evaluation function in said judgment step, and outputting the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the specified temperature.

17. A computer program which when executed on a computer realizes method of calculating thermal conditions of deriving predetermined heating conditions so that the temperature of an object to be heated satisfies desired conditions when a heating furnace heats the object based on the predetermined heating conditions, the computer program making the computer execute the steps of:

inputting at least an evaluation function that satisfies conditions when the temperature of said object becomes a predetermined allowable temperature or below, the heating conditions and the physical property data of said object;

calculating the temperature of said object, based on the heating characteristic data of the heating furnace including data regarding at least the number and arrangement of heating sources of said heating furnace, the heating

conditions and the physical property of said object; and

judging whether the temperature calculated in said temperature calculation step satisfies the evaluation function or not, and changing the heating conditions if it is judged that the temperature does not satisfy the evaluation function, and outputting the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the temperature if it is judged that the temperature satisfies the evaluation function,

wherein the calculation of temperature and the judgment of whether the calculated temperature satisfies the evaluation function or not are repeated, when the heating conditions are changed, again based on the changed heating conditions.

18. The computer program according to claim 17, further making the computer execute a second judgment step of specifying a temperature at which a difference between the temperature of said object and said allowable temperature, or an integral value of the  $n$ -th power of said difference ( $n > 0$ ) becomes minimum, of the temperature judged as satisfying the evaluation function in said judgment step, and outputting the heating conditions set at the time of calculation of the specified temperature.